

From: John Smitherman [mailto:j_smitherman@sierrainstruments.com]

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2006 3:03 PM

To: mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov

Subject: MLPAComments: No on "no take"

Please see attached.

Thanks,

John

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a long time resident of the Monterey area and am deeply concerned with the long term health of the bay. I am also fully aware that the long term health of the bay is critically influenced by properly managed no take zones. I am also very aware of the fact that these no take zone, as important as they are, do not belong in a high use, economically diverse area – such as the Monterey Bay. I do believe that it is time for better protection in some areas of the bay including the outer waters, but not near shore, not near the harbor waters. The breakwater has been used for fishing ever since it was built, it is part of Monterey. It is used by disabled, elderly and children and don't let anyone tell you that fishing from the wharf is the same as fishing off of the breakwater. Fishing off of the wharf is like fishing in a pond to catch bluegills, fishing on the breakwater is fishing in the ocean, real fish are caught there. The Cannery Row area is used for fishing in skiffs and at times is the only safe place to fish. Abalone farms exist right here in the bay, in my mind, this is exactly how you use our resources wisely. It is because of farms like these that Fish and Game was able to stop the wholesale pilage of our natural stock for commercial reasons. From time to time, I see these farms cutting kelp for their abalone and I want to go on record saying that after they are done cutting, you literally cannot see that they took anything. Bottom line, the Cannery Row area is used by everyone and should not be fenced off for diving only.

Sincerely,

John Smitherman

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